
FIFTH REPORT

OF THE

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

OF

MASSACHUSETTS.

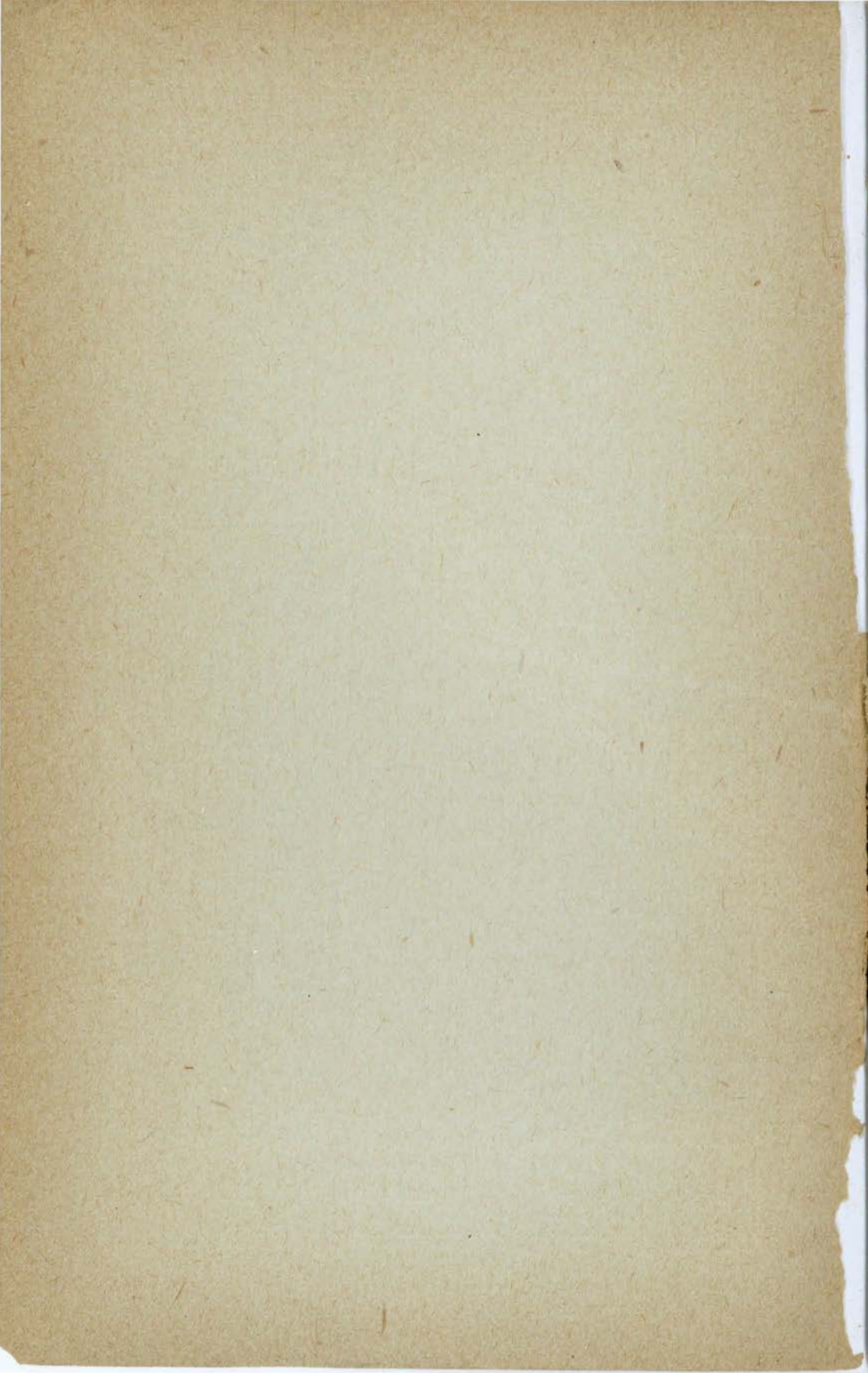
1895.

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18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.

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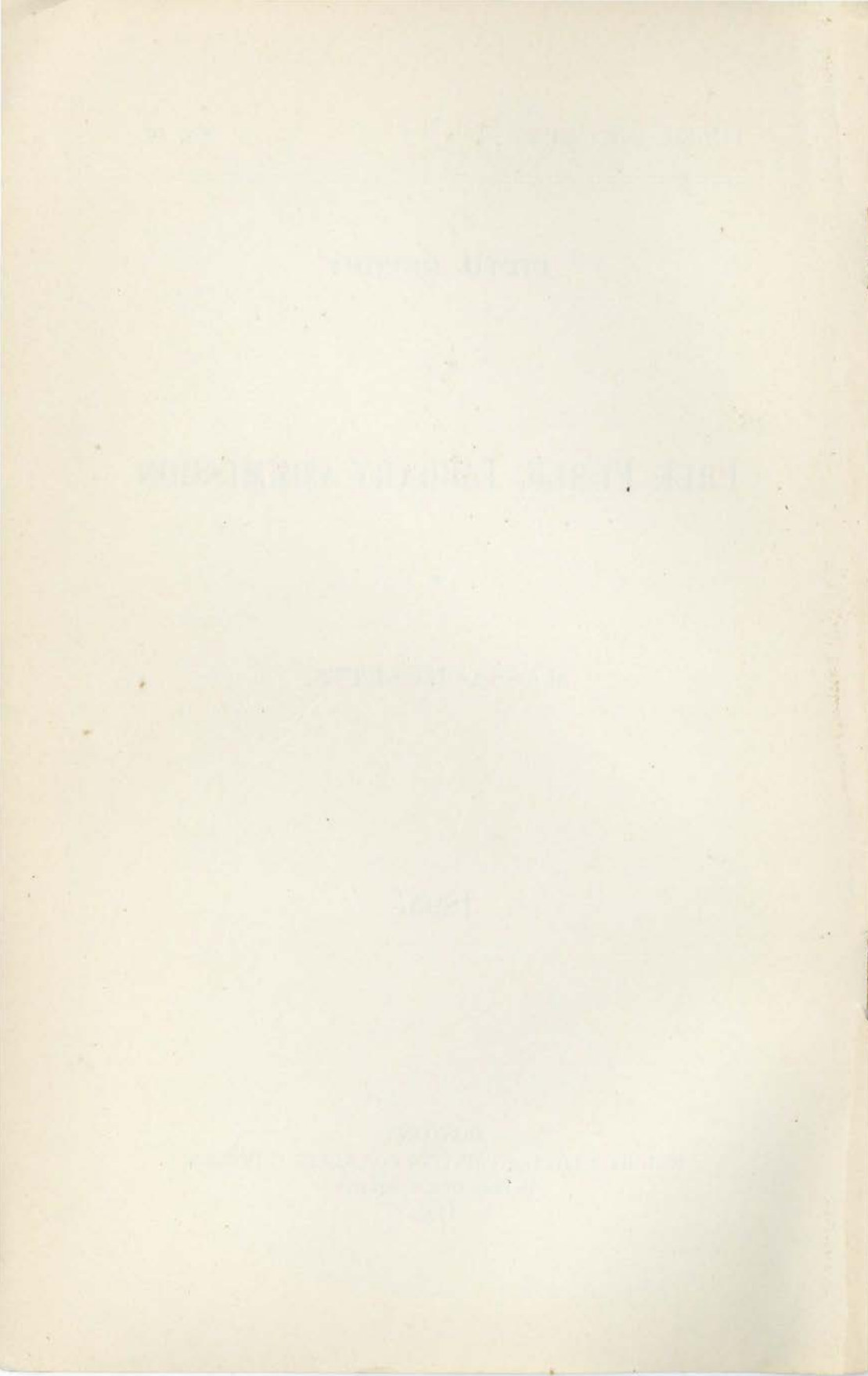
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Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, BOSTON, Jan. 30, 1895.

HON. GEORGE V. L. MEYER, *Speaker, House of Representatives.*

SIR:—I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the use of the Legislature, the fifth report of the Free Public Library Commission of Massachusetts.

Very respectfully,

WM. M. OLIN,
Secretary.

Continuity of the State

The continuity of the state is a concept which is of great importance in international law. It is the principle that a state which exists at one time continues to exist at a later time, notwithstanding any change in its government or its territory. This principle is based on the idea that the state is a permanent entity, and that its existence is not dependent on the will of its government or its territory.

Continuity of the State

W. H. H. H.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.

SAMUEL SWETT GREEN, Worcester,	.	.	.	term expires 1899.
HENRY S. NOURSE, Lancaster,	.	.	.	term expires 1898.
Miss E. P. SOHIER, <i>Secretary</i> , Beverly,	.	.	.	term expires 1897.
Miss ANNA E. TICKNOR, Boston,	.	.	.	term expires 1896.
C. B. TILLINGHAST, <i>Chairman</i> , Boston,	.	.	.	term expires 1895.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.

The fifth report of the Free Public Library Commission, which was established by chapter 347 of the Acts of 1890, covers the results of its work during the year 1894, the fourth year of its existence.

The methods it has pursued have been substantially the same as in previous years, the details of which have been fully given in previous reports. Experience has demonstrated the wisdom of the general system upon which the commission began its labors, and strengthened the conviction that patient attention to the conditions and necessities of individual localities is more judicious and effective than any set method or mechanical plan.

Since the appointment of the commission free public libraries have been established in seventy of the towns that were without free libraries in 1890, and books have been supplied to twenty-five towns under the provisions of chapter 255 of the Acts of 1892.

THE COMMISSION.

Mr. Samuel Swett Green, whose term expired in October, 1894, has been re-appointed by the governor, and the membership and organization of the commission remains as it was originally constituted. Regular meetings have been held on the third Thursday of each month in the year.

NEW FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN 1894.

Thirteen towns have accepted the provisions of chapter 347 of the Acts of 1890, and been supplied with books by the commission during the year, as follows:—

Bellingham,
Chester,
Conway,
Dighton,
Dover,

Florida,
Granville,
Hancock,
Monroe,

Shutesbury,
Truro,
Wendell,
West Newbury.

The town of Sandisfield has also accepted the act, but has not yet been supplied with books, for the reason of informality in compliance with some of the provisions of the law. A free public library has been established in the town of Stow without aid from the commission.

TOWNS CLASSIFIED AS TO LIBRARIES.

The following classification of the towns, revised to date, shows the free library facilities they now enjoy :—

CLASS 1.

Towns which have libraries owned and controlled by the town, and free for circulation to all the people.

Abington,	Carlisle,	Foxborough,
Adams,	Charlemont,	Framingham,
Agawam,	Charlton,	Freetown,
Alford,	Chatham,	Gill,
Andover,	Chelmsford,	Goshen,
Arlington,	Chelsea,	Gosnold,
Ashburnham,	Chester,	Granby,
Ashby,	Chesterfield,	Granville,
Ashland,	Chicopee,	Greenfield,
Athol,	Chilmark,	Greenwich,
Attleborough,	Clinton,	Groton,
Auburn,	Cohasset,	Groveland,
Avon,	Colrain,	Halifax,
Bellingham,	Conway,	Hamilton,
Belmont,	Dalton,	Hampden,
Berkley,	Dana,	Hancock,
Berlin,	Dedham,	Hanover,
Beverly,	Deerfield,	Hardwick,
Blackstone,	Dighton,	Harvard,
Blandford,	Douglas,	Hatfield,
Bolton,	Dover,	Hawley,
Boston,	Dunstable,	Heath,
Bourne,	East Bridgewater,	Holbrook,
Boxborough,	Eastham,	Holden,
Boylston,	Edgartown,	Holland,
Bridgewater,	Egremont,	Holliston,
Brimfield,	Erving,	Hopedale,
Brockton,	Essex,	Hubbardston,
Brookfield,	Everett,	Hudson,
Brookline,	Fall River,	Hull,
Burlington,	Falmouth,	Huntington,
Cambridge,	Fitchburg,	Hyde Park,
Canton,	Florida,	Lancaster,

Lanesborough,	Northfield,	Sudbury,
Leicester,	North Reading,	Sunderland,
Leominster,	Norwood,	Sutton,
Leverett,	Oakham,	Swampscott,
Leyden,	Orange,	Taunton,
Lowell,	Orleans,	Templeton,
Ludlow,	Otis,	Tewksbury,
Lunenburg,	Oxford,	Tolland,
Lynn,	Paxton,	Topsfield,
Lynnfield,	Peabody,	Townsend,
Manchester,	Pelham,	Truro,
Mansfield,	Pepperell,	Tyngsborough,
Marblehead,	Peru,	Tyringham,
Marlborough,	Phillipston,	Upton,
Mashpee,	Plainfield,	Uxbridge,
Mattapoissett,	Plymouth,	Wakefield,
Maynard,	Plympton,	Walpole,
Medfield,	Prescott,	Waltham,
Medford,	Provincetown,	Warwick,
Medway,	Quincy,	Watertown,
Melrose,	Reading,	Wayland,
Mendon,	Revere,	Webster,
Merrimac,	Richmond,	Wellfleet,
Middleborough,	Rochester,	Wendell,
Middlefield,	Rockland,	Wenham,
Middleton,	Rockport,	Westborough,
Milford,	Rowe,	West Boylston,
Millbury,	Rowley,	West Bridgewater,
Millis,	Royalston,	West Brookfield,
Milton,	Rutland,	Westford,
Monroe,	Sandwich,	Westminster,
Montague,	Saugus,	West Newbury,
Monterey,	Savoy,	Weston,
Mount Washington,	Sharon,	Westport,
Nahant,	Sheffield,	West Springfield,
Natick,	Shelburne,	West Stockbridge,
Needham,	Sherborn,	Weymouth,
New Ashford,	Shirley,	Whately,
New Bedford,	Shrewsbury,	Whitman,
New Braintree,	Shutesbury,	Wilbraham,
Newburyport,	Somerville,	Williamstown,
New Salem,	Southborough,	Wilmington,
Newton,	Southbridge,	Winchendon,
Norfolk,	Southwick,	Winchester,
North Adams,	Spencer,	Windsor,
Northampton,	Sterling,	Winthrop,
North Andover,	Stoneham,	Worcester,
North Attleborough,	Stoughton,	Wrentham. — 247.
Northborough,	Stow,	
North Brookfield,	Sturbridge,	

CLASS 2.

Towns which have free libraries in which the town has some representation in the management.

Acton,	Danvers,	Lincoln,
Ayer,	Easthampton,	Littleton,
Amesbury,	Enfield,	Malden,
Barre,	Franklin,	Norton,
Bedford,	Georgetown,	Petersham,
Belchertown,	Grafton,	Randolph,
Bernardston,	Haverhill,	Salem,
Bradford,	Hingham,	Springfield,
Braintree,	Holyoke,	Warren,
Concord,	Lawrence,	Woburn. — 32.
Cummington,	Lexington,	

CLASS 3.

Towns in which there are libraries to which the town appropriates money, but is not represented in the management.

Amherst,	Lee,	Princeton,
Ashfield,	Lenox,	Southampton,
Boxford,	Monson,	Stockbridge,
Cottage City,	Northbridge,	Wellesley,
Duxbury,	Palmer,	Westfield,
Gardner,	Pembroke,	Westhampton,
Great Barrington,	Pittsfield,	Worthington. — 22.
Hinsdale,		

CLASS 4.

Towns in which there are free libraries which have no connection with the town.

Barnstable,	Harwich,	Rehoboth,
Becket,	Hopkinton,	Scituate,
Billerica,	Ipswich,	Ware,
Buckland,	Kingston,	Wareham,
Easton,	Marion,	West Tisbury,
Fairhaven,	Methuen,	Yarmouth. — 20.
Gloucester,	Raynham,	

CLASS 5.

Towns having no free library.

Acushnet,	Hadley,	Salisbury,
Brewster,	Hanson,	Sandisfield,
Carver,	Lakeville,	Seekonk,
Cheshire,	Longmeadow,	Somerset,
Clarksburg,	Marshfield,	South Hadley,
Dartmouth,	Montgomery,	Swansea,
Dennis,	Nantucket,	Tisbury,
Dracut,	Newbury,	Wales,
Dudley,	New Marlborough,	Washington,
East Longmeadow,	Norwell,	Williamsburg. — 32.
Gay Head,	Russell,	

It appears from the above classification that of the 353 towns and cities in the State 247 contain free public libraries that are entirely under municipal control ; 32 contain libraries the use of which is entirely free, and in the management of which the municipality is in some form represented ; 22 contain libraries to which the town or city appropriates money, but over which it has no control. Most of these libraries are free for circulation, but a few are free only for reference. Twenty towns contain free public libraries that are supported entirely by private benefaction, and with which the municipality has no official connection ; and 32 towns have no public library, though in a few of this class small association libraries exist.

TOWNS ENTITLED TO THE BENEFIT OF THE LAW.

All the towns not included in Class 1, or 106 towns in all, are still entitled to the benefit of the State appropriation if they will establish free town libraries under full municipal control. All but 32 of these towns already contain free libraries or libraries in which the public has free rights or privileges. It is a matter for the careful consideration of the inhabitants of the towns included in classes two, three and four, more especially the smaller towns, whether it would not be wise for them to make their libraries town libraries, under the control of trustees chosen by vote of the town, in the same manner as committees are chosen for the control of the public schools. Any town making this change will be entitled to receive one hundred dollars' worth of books from the commission.

AID TO TOWNS HAVING LIBRARIES.

Under the provisions of chapter 355 of the Acts of 1892, which authorized the commission to furnish one hundred dollars' worth of books to any town whose valuation does not exceed \$600,000, and which maintained a free public library before the law of 1890 went into effect, books have been supplied during the year to five towns, as follows : —

Burlington,
Chesterfield,

Millis,
Paxton,

Rowe. — 5.

The towns of Boylston and Carlisle have accepted the act, but have not yet been supplied with books, on account of informality in their application.

The following towns are still entitled to the benefit of this law : —

Brimfield,
Halifax,
Mendon,

Middleton,
Norfolk,
North Reading,

Phillipston,
Royalston. — 8.

GIFTS AND NEW BUILDINGS.

The following gifts and other matters of interest relative to libraries have come to the notice of the commission during the year : —

ADAMS. With the co-operation of the town certain public-spirited citizens will erect a building to cost about \$40,000, for the use of the public library and the Grand Army. It is to be built of buff brick, with terra cotta trimmings.

AYER. The new building given to the town of Ayer by Mr. F. F. Ayer of New York was dedicated June 15.

BOXFORD. The will of the late Charles Herrick of Topsfield bequeathed \$200 to the Boxford public library, the interest to be expended for books.

BRADFORD. The late J. L. Woods of Cleveland, O., left \$15,000 for a building for the public library of Bradford, which will soon be erected.

CAMBRIDGE. The Cambridge public library has received 110 volumes and \$390 from the estate of the late E. W. Gurney.

CARLISLE. Mrs. Joanna Gleason of Sudbury, a native of Carlisle, has provided \$6,000 for a library building in Carlisle.

CHELMSFORD. Mr. Amos F. Adams has begun the erection of a library building for the town of Chelmsford, which will cost \$25,000 or \$30,000. The building is of brick, with terra cotta trimmings, and the site was given by Mr. J. E. Bartlett. The North Chelmsford Library Association, in consideration of an annual appropriation from the town, has made the use of its library free to the public.

DENNIS. Nathaniel Myrick of Spencer bequeathed \$500 to the Library Association of East Dennis.

EAST BRIDGEWATER. Mr. Cyrus Washburn, a native of East Bridgewater, is to erect a public library building for that town.

ESSEX. The new town hall and library building in Essex was dedicated February 15.

GROTON. The town of Groton has received from the estate of Luther Blood a bequest of \$5,000, of which \$4,000 is to be devoted to maintaining lectures, and the income of \$1,000 to the purchase of books for the public library.

HATFIELD. The late Samuel Huntington Dickinson provided a memorial and library building, costing \$14,500, for the town of Hatfield, which was dedicated May 30.

HOPKINTON. A new public library building has just been completed in Hopkinton, the gift of natives and residents of the town. John Quincy Adams of Wheaton, Ill., gave \$4,000; James A. Woolson of Cambridge, \$2,500; the late N. P. Coburn of Newton, \$2,500; Mrs. Anna M. Crooks, \$1,400; Mrs. Sarah A. Crooks, \$1,000; Mr. Alfred Hemenway of Watertown and Mr. Augustus N. Woolson, \$500 each. It is built of Milford granite, with Nova Scotia buff stone trimmings.

LEICESTER. Dr. Pliny Earle bequeathed \$6,000 to the town of Leicester for a public library building. D. Meriam gave \$5,000 and Mr. Lory S. Watson is to give \$20,000 or more for the public library building which is soon to be built for the town of Leicester. Anna Eliza Partridge bequeathed \$1,000 to the library.

LEXINGTON. The will of the late George W. Robinson bequeaths \$1,000 to the Cary public library of Lexington.

LITTLETON. The heirs of the late W. S. Houghton are to give a new library building to the town of Littleton.

MARSHFIELD. Mrs. Nancy S. Waterman of Marshfield bequeathed by her will \$500 to the public library of that town.

NAHANT. The corner-stone of the public library building at Nahant was laid July 23, 1894. It will cost the town about \$50,000.

NEWBURYPORT. The late Rev. William O. Moseley of Newburyport bequeathed \$10,000 as a trust fund for the benefit of Lucy A. Muzzey, the sum, after her death, to go to the Newburyport public library.

NEW SALEM. The will of Mrs. Pamela A. Butterfield of Orange bequeathed \$500 for the purchase of books for the New Salem free public library, no works of fiction to be included.

NORTHAMPTON. The Forbes Library at Northampton, which cost, exclusive of the land, \$113,993, was dedicated October 23.

NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH. The corner-stone of the Richards Memorial Library building at North Attleborough was laid June 16.

NORTHBOROUGH. Mr. Cyrus Gale is to erect in the town of Northborough a public library building, to cost not less than \$15,000, and to be called the "Gale Library building."

NORTH BROOKFIELD. The Haston free public library building at North Brookfield was dedicated September 20. It cost between \$40,000 and \$50,000.

ORANGE. The will of Mrs. Pamela A. Butterfield bequeaths to the town of Orange a plot of land for a public library and \$500 for books, on condition that the library shall be built within two years, and be known as the Butterfield Library.

PITTSFIELD. An interesting collection of one thousand volumes from the library of the late Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes has been given to the Berkshire Athenæum by his son, Judge Holmes.

SALEM. The Hon. J. B. F. Osgood has presented to the Salem public library \$100 for the purchase of books for the reference library. The Essex Lodge of Odd Fellows has given its entire library of of 825 volumes to the public library.

SCITUATE. The Pierce Memorial Library building at North Scituate, erected by Mr. Silas Pierce as a memorial to his wife, was dedicated May 26.

SHIRLEY. The Hazen Memorial Library at Shirley, costing \$5,500, of which \$3,000 was bequeathed by the late Mrs. E. D. Hazen, was dedicated April 25.

SOUTHWICK. A new building has been erected for the public library of Southwick.

STERLING. The public library of Sterling has come into the possession of a bequest from the will of the late Rev. Josiah K. Waite of Boston, amounting to \$3,000.

STURBRIDGE. The late George B. Hyde, a widely known schoolmaster in Boston, bequeathed \$20,000 to the free public library of his native town of Sturbridge.

TOWNSEND. The new town and memorial hall in Townsend, which contains ample accommodations for the public library, was dedicated July 11.

UXBRIDGE. The Thayer Memorial Library at Uxbridge was dedicated June 20. It is the gift of Mr. E. C. Thayer. It cost \$26,500, and Mr. Thayer has also given \$5,000 for a book fund.

WALPOLE. The late Hon. Francis W. Bird gave \$5,000 to the Walpole public library.

WALTHAM. The late Francis Buttrick bequeathed \$60,000 to the city of Waltham for a library building.

WILLIAMSBURG. Mr. Stephen Meekins left by his will the sum of \$15,000 for the erection of a stone library building in Williamsburg, and the main portion of the residue of his estate is to constitute a fund for the purchase of books for the library.

LOANING REFERENCE BOOKS TO SMALL LIBRARIES.

It has occurred to the commission that there may be persons in the towns to which it has supplied libraries who wish to pursue inquiries which they are discouraged in making because needed books are not readily accessible.

Reference is not made to the wants of profound students who are making minute investigations, but to the occasional

needs of every-day inquirers, such as teachers and persons of an investigating turn of mind, who have gone through the public schools and belong to literary, historical or scientific clubs or are disposed to engage in private study, either in the line of their industrial or professional occupations or for purposes of general or special cultivation.

Some of the libraries of the Commonwealth are generously lending books to students within the State and at a distance, notably Harvard College library, the Boston Athenæum and the free public library of Worcester. Some of the principal college, city and other libraries in different States and especially the library of the Surgeon-General's office at Washington, are extensively engaged in aiding investigators by lending books to them even when they live in towns at long distances from the libraries. Such loans are generally made by a librarian through other libraries rather than to individuals, the borrowing libraries making themselves responsible for losses and injuries to books and for the cost of expressage or fees of registering packages at the post office.

The Society for the Encouragement of Studies at Home among Women has a reference library from which it lends valuable books to students who are pursuing courses of study under its auspices, many of them living in States distant from its headquarters in Boston.

The commission thinks it desirable to try the experiment, in a very humble way, of engaging in similar work.

When teachers or other persons in the towns to which it has supplied libraries wish to pursue some study, as, for example, botany, zoölogy or history, American or foreign, or a division of a subject, it invites them to make their wants known by communicating with the chairman of the commission at the State Library, in the State House, Boston, and he will himself, or through other members of the commission, try to furnish the books needed in supplying such reasonable wants.

The commission may buy some books in doing this work. It is not intended, however, to buy a library of reference books at the start, if at any time. The commission does not wish to try to anticipate needs, but to supply needs which it finds existing through applications for information made to it.

It merely invites persons in towns to which it has supplied

libraries, who wish to pursue popular investigations, to make their wants known to the officers of the libraries in the towns in which they live. These officers will then decide whether to apply to the chairman of the commission for the desired books (or for books on the subject in which there is an interest). If the library makes such an application, it will make itself responsible for losses and injuries.

The commission, on the receipt of applications, will use the various facilities which it can command in meeting the wishes of the libraries which ask for aid.

Should books in some cases be bought by the commission, they would be kept, under present arrangements, at the State House, and would form the nucleus of a reference library, under the control of the commission, collected for the purpose of answering questions which had been actually asked and which presumably would be asked again, and perhaps frequently.

It is an experiment which the commission is trying. It wishes to test the wants of the towns specified.

TOWNS WITHOUT LIBRARIES.

The thirty-two towns that are still without libraries are distributed throughout the counties as follows : —

<i>Barnstable.</i>		
Brewster,	Dennis.	
<i>Berkshire.</i>		
Cheshire,	New Marlborough,	Washington.
Clarksburg,	Sandisfield,	
<i>Bristol.</i>		
Acushnet,	Seekonk,	Swansea.
Dartmouth,	Somerset,	
<i>Dukes.</i>		
Gay Head,	Tisbury.	
<i>Essex.</i>		
Newbury,	Salisbury.	
<i>Hampden.</i>		
East Longmeadow,	Montgomery,	Wales.
Longmeadow,	Russell,	

<i>Hampshire.</i>		
Hadley,	South Hadley,	Williamsburg.
<i>Middlesex.</i>		
Dracut.		
<i>Nantucket.</i>		
Nantucket.		
<i>Plymouth.</i>		
Carver,	Lakeville,	Norwell.
Hanson,	Marshfield,	
<i>Worcester.</i>		
Dudley.		

The aggregate population of these towns, according to the census of 1890, was 47,470, — about two and one-seventh per cent. of the entire population of the Commonwealth.

Twenty-four of these towns have a population of less than two thousand each and ten of less than one thousand. Twenty showed a decline in population at the last census.

The libraries that have been established by the commission have been appreciated by the communities in which they were placed and especially serviceable to the public schools; several of them have been already provided through private generosity with tasteful and commodious buildings, and in almost all cases the towns have with great unanimity devoted a much larger sum of money for their maintenance than the minimum requirement of the law. Our libraries are in a healthy condition. The selection of books made by the local trustees gives evidence of careful and discriminating judgment; methods which combine simplicity of administration with easy facility for the use of the books generally prevail.

C. B. TILLINGHAST,
Chairman,
HENRY S. NOURSE,
Secretary pro tem.,
SAMUEL SWETT GREEN,
ELIZABETH P. SOHIER,
ANNA E. TICKNOR,
Commissioners.

LAWS RELATING TO THE FORMATION AND ORGANIZATION OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

[ACTS OF 1890, CHAPTER 347.]

AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE ESTABLISHMENT AND EFFICIENCY OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. The governor with the advice and consent of the council shall appoint five persons, residents of the Commonwealth, who shall constitute a board of library commissioners. The governor shall designate the chairman thereof. One member of said board shall be appointed for the term of five years, one for four years, one for three years, one for two years and one for one year; and thereafter the term of office of the commissioners shall be five years. All vacancies on said board, whether occurring by expiration of term or otherwise, shall be filled by the governor with the advice and consent of the council.

SECT. 2. The librarian or trustees of any free public library may ask said board for advice in regard to the selection of books, the cataloguing of books and any other matters pertaining to the maintenance or administration of the library; and the board shall give such advice in regard to said matters as it shall find practicable. The board shall make a report of its doings to the general court in January of each year, and fifteen hundred copies of said report shall be printed as one of the public document series.

SECT. 3. Said board is hereby authorized and directed to expend, upon the application of the board of library trustees of any town having no free public library owned and controlled by the town, a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars for books for any such town entitled to the benefits of this act; such books to be used by said trustees for the purpose of establishing a free public library, and said commissioners shall select and purchase all books to be provided as aforesaid.

SECT. 4. No town shall be entitled to the benefits of this act until such town has accepted the provisions hereof at a regularly called town meeting, and has elected a board of library trustees as provided in chapter three hundred and four of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and eighty-eight, and until said trustees shall have provided, in a manner satisfactory to the board of commissioners, for the care,

custody and distribution of the books furnished in accordance with this act.

SECT. 5. Any town accepting the provisions of this act shall annually appropriate from the dog tax, or shall otherwise annually provide for the use and maintenance of its free public library, a sum not less than fifty dollars, if its last assessed valuation was one million dollars or upward, or a sum not less than twenty-five dollars if said valuation was less than one million and not less than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, or a sum not less than fifteen dollars if said valuation was less than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

SECT. 6. No member of the board of commissioners shall receive any compensation, but the board may expend a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars annually for clerical assistance and incidental and necessary expenses in the discharge of its duties; and all sums expended under the provisions of this act shall be paid from the treasury after the bills therefor have been approved by the board and sent to the auditor of the Commonwealth, who shall certify to the governor and council the amount due as in case of all other bills and accounts approved by him under the provisions of law.

SECT. 7. This act shall take effect upon its passage. [*Approved May 28, 1890.*]

[CHAPTER 255 OF THE ACTS OF 1892.]

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

The board of library commissioners may expend the sum of one hundred dollars for books for the free public library of any town whose valuation does not exceed six hundred thousand dollars, which maintained a free library before the passage of chapter three hundred and forty-seven of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and ninety, and which has fully complied or hereafter fully complies with the provisions of said act.

ELECTION OF TRUSTEES AND MANAGEMENT.

[ACTS OF 1888, CHAPTER 304.]

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ELECTION AND THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF TRUSTEES OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES, OR OF FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND READING-ROOMS IN TOWNS.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. Every town which raises or appropriates money for the support of a free public library, or free public library and reading-room that is owned by the town, shall at its annual meeting, or at a

legal town meeting appointed and notified for that purpose by the selectmen, elect a board of trustees, except in cases where such library has been or may be acquired by the town, in whole or in part, by some donation or bequest containing other conditions or provisions for the elections of its trustees or for its care and management, which conditions have been accepted and agreed to by vote of the town.

SECT. 2. [As amended by chapter 112, Acts of 1889.] Said board of trustees shall consist of any number of persons divisible by three which the town may decide to elect, one-third thereof to be elected annually and to continue in office for three years, except that the town shall first elect one-third of the trustees for one year, one-third for two years and one-third for three years, and thereafter one-third the number annually for the term of three years. No person shall be ineligible to serve upon said board of trustees by reason of sex. Such board of trustees shall be elected by ballot, and shall organize annually by the choice of a chairman and secretary from their own number: *provided*, any town having a free public library, which has heretofore elected a board of trustees to manage the same, consisting of a number divisible by three, and has heretofore elected annually one-third of said board for three years, may continue to elect annually one-third of said board, and the trustees in office shall hold their offices until the term for which they were elected shall expire, unless the town shall vote otherwise.

SECT. 3. If any person elected a member of the board of trustees, after being duly notified of his election in the manner in which town officers are required to be notified, refuses or neglects to accept said office, or if any member declines further service, or from change of residence or otherwise, becomes unable to attend to the duties of the board, the remaining members shall in writing give notice of the fact to the selectmen of the town, and the two boards may thereupon, after giving public notice of at least one week, proceed to fill such vacancy until the next annual town meeting; and a majority of the ballots of persons entitled to vote shall be necessary to an election.

SECT. 4. The trustees so elected by the town shall have the entire custody and management of the library and reading-room and all property owned by the town relating thereto; and all money raised or appropriated by the town for its support and maintenance, and all money or property that the town may receive by donation from any source, or by bequest, in behalf of said free public library and reading-room, shall be placed in the care and custody of the board of trustees, to be expended or retained by them for and in behalf of the town for the support and maintenance of its free public library and reading-room, in accordance with the conditions of each or any donation or bequest accepted by the town.

SECT. 5. In every town which shall, by a majority of the votes cast at its annual town meeting or at a legal town meeting appointed and notified for that purpose by the selectmen, so direct, the board of trustees shall, in addition to the officers named in section two of this act, elect from among their own number a treasurer, who shall give a bond to the town similar to the bond given by the town treasurer, for such an amount and with such sureties as may be satisfactory to the selectmen; and until a town directs otherwise the town treasurer shall act as treasurer of the board of trustees.

SECT. 6. The trustees shall make an explicit report to the town at each annual town meeting of all their receipts and expenditures, and of all the property of the town in their care and custody, including a statement of any unexpended balance of money they may have, and of any bequests or donations they may have received and are holding in behalf of the town, with such recommendations in reference to the same as they may deem necessary for the town to consider.

SECT. 7. Nothing in this act shall be construed to interfere with library associations, nor with any library that is or may be organized and managed under special act of the legislature.

SECT. 8. This act shall take effect upon its passage. [*Approved May 4, 1888.*]

It is a well-known fact that the American Medical Association has been the leading organization in the United States for the promotion of the interests of the medical profession. It has been the champion of the cause of the physician, and has been the voice of the medical profession in all matters of importance. It has been the leader in the fight for the recognition of the medical profession as a learned profession, and for the establishment of a medical profession in the United States. It has been the champion of the cause of the physician, and has been the voice of the medical profession in all matters of importance. It has been the leader in the fight for the recognition of the medical profession as a learned profession, and for the establishment of a medical profession in the United States.

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